

Legislature, I rise to oppose bringing this bill before the Legislature for many reasons. One of the reasons is, Senator Johnson gave a good example. When he was elected to the Legislature, he was a Republican. After he got to the Legislature, he changed to a Democrat. So this doesn't guarantee that if somebody is elected as a Democrat or a Republican that they are going to stay that way. They can reregister. It doesn't guarantee a thing. As it is now, bills get out of committee and bills are debated on a nonpartisan issue, the substance of the bill, not the Democrats want the bill or the Republicans want the bill or the Democratic Chairman wants the bill or the Republican Chairman wants the bill. The issues are decided on the issue not on partisan politics and it should be on the issue. It should not be on partisan politics. Then he says the scholars, and look at this, and scholars say this, this, and this. Well, I didn't know that scholars are politicians or have been in politics and I don't think that they should carry so much weight as to how this body should feel and how the citizens should feel...the citizens. How do the citizens feel? Maybe we ought to talk about that. This issue has been before the citizens time and time again and they have said, no, we want it nonpartisan. The issue was brought up the other 49 states are partisan. The other 49 states are two houses. We are one house. So that carries no weight. Even in this report, the report says that accountability might improve. It doesn't say that it will improve. So don't put too much stock in the report. As it is now, the Legislature is organized with five Democratic Chairmen and eight Republicans. That is fair. It could be the other way around and it still would be fair because both sides are represented, if you want to talk politics. If you change this, Senator Johnson has already told you she is going to be one way or the other. Now who can you point your finger at? You can point it at the Governor. He is elected on a partisan election. He has influence into the Legislature with his party members. Don't kid yourself. If it is a Republican, he can influence Republicans, and if it is a Democrat, he can influence Democrats. So the party influence is there now even though we are nonpartisan. Also I am going to touch just a minute on taking bills away from committees. I don't like this idea. I will not support